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Increase in Micro-purchase Threshold from \$2500 to \$3000

Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-13 was published in the Federal Register September 28, 2006. FAC 2005-13 amends the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) as follows: One threshold change is the increase of the micro-purchase threshold (FAR 2.101) from \$2,500 to \$3,000. Also the FPDS reporting threshold (FAR 4.602 c) is raised from \$2,500 to \$3,000.

FEDERAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Federal government spends about \$10 billion annually on energy-using products and services for its buildings, operations, and transportation. As the world's largest volume-buyer of energy-related products, the Federal government can save energy, save money, and help drive the market for energy-efficient, renewable energy, and water-conserving products. To find out how your agency can make purchases that are smart about energy and cost, and meet legal requirements, access FEMP's web site for energy efficient recommendations, calculators and other resources.

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp/procurement/>

Taken from DOE Web site.

SmartPay® Newsletter

December 2006

VISA Pledges \$20 Million in Incentives to Protect Card Data

Visa will offer \$20 million in financial incentives and create new sanctions in an effort to further merchant compliance with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS). The new effort, called the Visa PCI Compliance Acceleration Program (PCI CAP), is the first of its kind to provide positive reinforcement to the industry's traditional, "fine-only" approach. Visa PCI Cap represents one component of Visa's comprehensive strategy to address payment card fraud.

The program targets the acquirers responsible for the largest 1,200 merchants—known as Level 1 and 2 merchants—that each process more than one million Visa transactions a year and combined account for approximately two-thirds of Visa's U.S. transaction volume. The initiative's goal is to eradicate the storage of full-track data and PIN data, and grow PCI compliance among this group of merchants.

Visa reports current PCI compliance among Level 1 merchants at 36% and 15% among Level 2 merchants, with the majority in both levels actively working toward compliance.



Visa is investing up to \$20 million in an incentive fund payable to the acquiring financial institutions of the largest U.S. merchants who have already or will validate PCI compliance by August 31, 2007, and have not been involved in a data compromise. In addition, Visa will link the benefits of tiered interchange rates to PCI compliance, creating an additional security incentive for acquirers of large merchants.

Effective October 1, 2007, acquirers whose transactions qualify for lower interchange rates must ensure that the merchants generating the transactions are PCI compliant in order to receive this benefit. Acquirers are encouraged to use the incentives to fund merchant security compliance programs.

Visa will enforce acquirer fines for data compromises involving merchants of any size. Fines are also assessed on acquirers that have failed to confirm that full track data is not retained or that did not provide a PCI compliance plan for their Level 1 merchants by September 30, 2006.

Visa USA is the nation's leading payment brand and largest payment system, enabling banks to provide their consumers and business customers with a wide variety of payment alternatives tailored to meet their evolving needs. Visa USA is committed to increasing the choice, convenience,

acceptance and security of Visa payments for all stakeholders in the payment system — members, cardholders and merchants. Through its 13,369 member financial institutions, more than 500 million Visa-branded cards have been issued to cardholders in the United States. Worldwide, cardholders in more than 150 countries carry more than 1 billion Visa-branded cards, accounting for more than \$3 trillion in annual transaction volume. VisaNet, Visa's global processing system and the world's largest financial network, processes transactions with unparalleled reliability. Visa offers a trusted, reliable and convenient way to access and mobilize financial resources—anytime, anywhere, anyway.

Taken from press release/nr353.html

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We hope each of you enjoy this beautiful holiday season. Best wishes from the Commerce Bankcard Center for a Happy New Year.....

Janette, Pat, Donna and Kathryn